

2025 Federal Legislation

Recommendation for Support Position – April 2, 2025 Legislative Committee

S. 350 (Padilla D-CA) – Wildfire Emergency Act

Key Advocacy Goal:
Wildfire Resilience

- Secretary of Agriculture would select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, increase firefighter training, energy resilience retrofits and wildfire-hardening home modifications in low-income communities.
- Ensure the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) are better able to mitigate the risk and impact of wildfires.
- The prescribed fire-training center, community grants for land stewardship and conservation, and wildfire-hardening retrofit provisions could be beneficial to the Park District. The Park District Board of Directors previously supported similar legislation in Resolution NO.: 2023-09-198.

S. 453 (Padilla D-CA) – Wildfire Intelligence Center

Key Advocacy Goal: Wildfire Resilience

- Would create a national center aimed at compiling comprehensive information on wildfires at all stages to better prepare for wildfires, assist with decision-support during a crisis, inform recovery and streamline Federal wildfire response to ensure that states have a “one-stop-shop” within the Federal government.
- This center would also increase monitoring and imaging capabilities that land management agencies currently cannot achieve. Leverage cutting-edge technology to improve the interoperability and effectiveness of the many entities engaged in wildfire work.
- Knowledge learned by the Wildfire Intelligence Center could be beneficial to the Park District’s vegetation management and wildfire response work, particularly from the information-sharing provision.

**S. 602 (Padilla D-CA) –
Wildfire Resilience Through Grazing
Research Act**

Key Advocacy Goal:
Wildfire Resilience

- Would add the Grazing for Wildfire Mitigation Initiative to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's High-Priority Research List.
- Knowledge learned through this grazing research could inform additional improvements for the Park District's grazing program.
- This bill would support research and development of grazing land management techniques for wildfire mitigation and recovery via research at land-grant colleges and universities, the University of California system among others.
- Promote the dissemination of information about wildlife grazing land management techniques to public and private landowners, land managers and livestock owners, including land management activities which protect against negative environmental impacts and improve soil health.

**S. 791 (Van Hollen D-MD) and
H.R. 1718 (Mfume D-MD) – Justice
Thurgood Marshall Historic Site in
the
State of Maryland**

Overarching Principle Alignment:
supporting inclusive interpretation
and educational opportunities.

- Would establish Public School 103 as a National Historic Site and preserve it by designating the site as an affiliated area of the National Park System.
- The Maryland Delegation secured language in the John S. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act directing NPS to complete a special resource study where the school was found to meet criteria for national significance and suitability.
- The future joint visitor center with NPS at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 would be a complementary recognition of the contributions of the former Supreme Court Justice on the West coast. History and learnings at each facility could be shared for mutual benefit.
- Support of this legislation would provide continued reassurance to NPS about the importance of a West coast visitor center which shares important African-American and cultural history.

S. 811 (Klobuchar D-MN) – Recreational Trails Full Funding Act

Key Advocacy Goal:
Welcoming Visitor Use
Facilities

- A bipartisan bill that would deliver funding increases for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).
- Would bring funding in line with non-highway recreational vehicle gas-tax revenues, as originally intended, an approximate total of \$281 million last year.
- RTP has funded thousands of projects nationwide including essential trail maintenance. To date, the Park District has received \$4,497,470 in RTP funding.

S. 949 (Kelly D-AZ) – National Park Service Funding

Key Advocacy Goal:
Welcoming Visitor Use
Facilities

- The intent of the legislation is to ensure the National Park Service is fully staffed in light of the current Administration's efforts to significantly reduce the number of staff.

H.R. 403 (Swalwell D-CA) – Preventing the Next Natural Disaster

Key Advocacy Goal:
Extreme Weather Preparedness

- Changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s pre-disaster mitigation grant program by increasing funding and improving data collection to better track and manage resources before and after natural disasters.
- Increases FEMA's set aside for pre-disaster mitigation assistance from 6% to 15%.
- The Park District has received \$6,326,910 from FEMA's pre-disaster mitigation assistance and \$7,366,273 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Increasing the set aside would be significant for the Park District's vegetation management work.
- The Park District Board of Directors previously supported similar legislation in Resolution NO.: 2023-09-198.

H.R. 753 (Chu D-CA) – Fire Information and Reaction Enhancement (FIRE) Act

Key Advocacy Goal: Wildfire Resilience

- Would direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to maintain a program aimed at improving wildfire forecasting and detection.
- Develop and extend accurate wildfire forecasts and warnings with a focus on improving:
 - The prediction of intensification and spread of wildfires.
 - The forecast and communication of smoke dispersion from wildfires.
 - Information dissemination and risk communication to create more effective watch and warning products.
 - The early detection of wildfires to contain their growth and mitigate damages.
- Authorize the Administrator of NOAA to conduct development, testing and deployment activities related to: advanced satellite detection products, grid-based assessments and outlooks of fuel moisture and danger levels, coupled atmosphere and fire modeling systems, systems to link climate predictions to achievable land management decisions and improved spatial and temporal resolution observations in high latitudes.

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